

# Focus on Safety

**Safety for  
All BNSF  
Employees**

## A call to attention: A BNSF safety update

Dear Valued Member of Team BNSF:

During the 60 days from early December through early February, we lost four of our colleagues who were fatally injured on our railroad. We are all significantly affected by the loss of Mr. Agnew, Mr. Noice, Mr. Benally and Mr. Wilcox. I believe we must honor the memory of these fellow employees, as we continue our work together toward achieving a workplace free of accidents and injuries.

Although we are still reviewing the circumstances and contributing factors in these fatal incidents, a few things are clear. First, each one of us must perform a thorough risk assessment before beginning any task. We must also remain alert to changes in our task or our surroundings that will impact our safety, including being attentive to our physical location and track activity in our area.

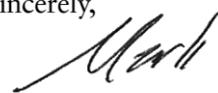
As a reminder, I encourage you to review these safety practices to help reduce your risk of injury:

- Always use job safety briefings to set your focus for the task. Before beginning any task and whenever conditions change, assess any potential risks. Discuss these potential risks with all members of your work team.
- Be certain that everyone on your work team understands and follows best work practices to complete the task. If you have any questions about how to perform the work safely, stop and ask for assistance.
- It is all too easy to become familiar with the risks you know are there and begin to discount the severe consequences of at-risk behaviors. You must always remain alert and attentive, focused on the task at hand, and never drop your guard.
- If your mind starts to wander from the task at hand, take a moment and consciously readjust your thoughts to the current situation.
- Be aware of any distracting thoughts or concerns that may draw your attention away from the work and affect your safety on the job. If you are unable to keep troublesome thoughts away and believe you may be unsafe on the job, talk with your supervisor.
- Be aware of your surroundings. As you work, remember that conditions can change quickly. Be aware of changes in your environment or in the equipment or people around you, and adjust your own position or activities accordingly. Stop to re-brief whenever conditions or tasks change.
- If a peer leader warns you of a risk or points out a safer approach, you should listen and immediately adjust your behavior. Peer communication is lasting and significant. Heeding a warning from a co-worker can save your life.

At BNSF, we truly believe that all injuries and accidents are preventable, and we are establishing a strong foundation for continued safety improvement. We have a number of processes that target at-risk behavior and reduce variability in our work tasks. Many of these programs have been integrated into the Six Safety Basics, which are the framework for our Safety Action Plans.

But, ultimately, all the safety processes in the world cannot protect us if we put ourselves at risk. Let us each personally make a resolution to work injury-free in 2009.

Sincerely,



Mark Schulze  
Vice President, Safety, Training and Operations Support

